

I am very concerned about the unfair media coverage that results from the consolidation of media that has happened in the past few years. It is dangerous to our democracy as the check the media should play in our government and public policy affairs is greatly jeopardize and weakened.

A perfect example of the imbalanced media coverage is Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If they run this program they should also have to run the favorable documentary about Senator Kerry's military service. They could also air Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This is all the more important when it comes to our election process. Media is required to be fair and balanced in their coverage during elections. If a station runs a program that favors or criticizes one candidate, they must run a comparable program that favors or criticizes the other candidate.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. When it comes to politics, as a large corporation, the big media companies favor politicians that serve their financial interests. This is dangerous to our democracy which is going more tenuous every day.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Our airwaves are to serve the public interest not the financial interests of the mega-corporations and/or the politicians who cater to their special interests.

I am very concerned about the future of this great experiment in democracy. We don't need mindless patriotic rhetoric echoing as the true expression of democracy and freedom get sold and stolen away. We need the media to serve the purpose of challenging our government and holding it accountable. The media needs to be balanced in their election-related coverage.

If the FCC doesn't step in to ensure that the media plays its appropriate role in election coverage, if you don't require Sinclair media to be fair and balanced in its coverage of the presidential candidates, then your credibility is highly questionable. This is your charge and charter. Do your duty in the public interest.

Thank you.